

Eastern Region Public Affairs, 2714 N. Mayfair, Spokane, WA 99207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 15, 2004

Contact: Al Gilson, Public Information Officer, (509) 324-6015

I-90 paving and safety project to get underway in Adams County

Contractor crews will begin roadwork on Monday, March 22nd on a section of Interstate in Adams County. The paving and safety work will stretch from Tokio to the Adams/Lincoln County border, a distance of about 7.6 miles.

The work includes grinding out the existing asphalt surface of the driving lanes to a depth of about two inches then repaving with new asphalt of the same thickness. The shoulders will then receive a coating of asphalt oil, known as a “fog seal.” This method of rehabilitating the driving surface is more cost-effective than resurfacing the entire roadway. The asphalt layer provides a new driving surface and smoother ride for motorists. The new asphalt and the fog seal then protect the roadway structure by preventing water from seeping through the surface to gravel layers below.

In addition, the contractor will address some safety issues for this section of freeway. These items include the removal of some rock formations that are within the prescribed “clear zone” for obstacles. This clear zone requirement was adjusted several years ago when the speed limit was raised from 60mph to 70mph. For cost efficiency purposes, this requirement is addressed by the WSDOT as a part of the pavement preservation program and included in those contracts, rather than develop a stand-alone job.

(More)

2-2-2-2
I-90 Project
March 15, 2004

The clear zone rules require that obstacles within 41 feet of the fog line must either be removed or a protective barrier installed. Since the addition of a protective barrier is, in itself, another obstacle, and the rock features within the limits of this project are unstable in nature, the Department has determined that the removal is the best choice.

This project will take about two months to complete. While work is underway, motorists will experience periods of lane restrictions on both eastbound and westbound Interstate 90 in this area. When these lane restrictions are in effect, the legal speed limit will be reduced to 55 mph. These legal speed reductions will be noted on signs when they are in effect. In addition, during blasting operations, all traffic will be stopped until material is cleared and it is safe to proceed, usually within 10 to 15 minutes.

Poe Asphalt Paving of Clarkston, Washington is the prime contractor on this project. Their bid for this construction work is \$1,437,305. Bob Hilmes is the WSDOT project engineer.

Another project on I-90, located just to the east of this work, from the Lincoln County line to the Spokane County line, will also be underway shortly. It is also a pavement resurfacing and safety item project.

#